

4/25/78

Nancy -

IMPERATIVE!

How do you handle being asked to support issues like gay sex, public sex, pornography, etc.

I am a 50 year old Christian woman. This stuff is not what I feel I want to support. Want my resignation?

I affirm my brothers' rights to love, have sex, & to be - at what point do I affirm my right to be a Christian within a context I understand.

I am no moralist, and I have been slapped down for

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5 Junction Street • Providence RI

"sleeping around" — that doesn't bother me. I'm over my head.

Must I support class oppressing by $\approx$ 11-15 year old boys, sex in public toilets, and "lollipop" porn in order to minister here?

How do other women ministers handle this stuff?

(Remember that I have teen-aged sons, please, & I can empathize $\approx$ their parents. I also realize that some of the kids are gay — and I am NOT talking about them. The kids are all poor — the men mainly middle-class. I see it as a class issue as well as a gay one —)

I can deal $\approx$ individual cases where there is a personal

interaction and deal $\bar{c}$ the issues
at hand where there is inter-
action and some kind of evalu-
ation of the circumstances. But
to blanketly approve of middle-
aged males having sex $\bar{c}$ 11 year
olds affends me someplace
in a deeply angry place. I was
a molested 11 year old + a
raped 13 year old. Is it
really that different? I
know what it did to me for
years. Must I support it?

I would appreciate another
woman's point of view. The
women in the church - many
of them mothers - tend to feel
as I do. We are troubled. One
woman has walked out over

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it, I feel pressured — and I don't like being told I am an oppressor (which is a manipulative device) if I do not support it.

What say you? What would Freda say or Carol? Do you know?

Jean + I have separated. I miss her. We have grown apart since Gen. Conf. and especially since the move. I need a lover who can feel for me in the lonely places — and Jean, I think, cannot. Isabella Miller said Monday "There is a new generation that can love

without caring." I have
experienced that and maybe
caring is more important than
love. Caritas/agape/phulos/eros -
and the greatest of these is caritas!

I love you very much. I
will for a long time. I love me,
too and to remain in the
relationship is just too painful -

Between the two - the issues
I spelled out - and losing Jean -
I wonder what the Lord is
trying to do!

Regards -

Marge



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4/25/78

Ray -

I have spoken from
the pulpit about sexual
responsibility & you
consider it not self-
affirming.

I offer you the chance
to speak about sexual
irresponsibility & prove
that it is self-affirming.

Better yet — Marge

dialogue sermon. Possibly to follow

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Thank
You

Dear
Frank

my dear Mrs Rogers

please excuse my tardiness
in writing to thank you, for
all your kindness, during the
blizzard. I was the one who
had my hand by stove
and received minus the way.
also thank you for the lovely

Communion Service which you
held.

Sincerely yours

Miss Virginia Lytle

4/25/78

Brian:

I propose a catch 22 for you. Scripture says "Love your neighbor as yourself" + "Do unto others as you would be done by."

Male speakers (social workers & theologians alike, apparently) state that "anonymons" sex is O.K. and necessary for some people (men people, of course), yet when crack-downs occur on places where such things go on, certain neighbors (women people, primarily) who do not ordinarily do such things, are also denied our rights on the basis that "homosexuals"

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male + female, tend to have
no behavioral standards
& offend the public sensi-
bilities by their actions. If
women people speak out
to their brothers requesting
them to be more responsi-
ble & love their neighbors
as themselves, we are charac-
terized as oppressors of
our brothers. If we do not,
we permit our brothers
to continue to act in ways
that continue to threaten
us. Why can't our brothers
learn restraint, responsi-
bility & a little self-control.

I propose to you that they
might even learn to respect
themselves more for having
exercised these facilities.

What I hear ^{gay} men saying
is that they are sexual beings
who have no control over
their sexuality / shouldn't
have any / and that no one
can make them have any.

I see that as immaturity
and an answer to a sexist
message which our society
has given men: "You can
have sex ^{anytime} & anyone, anywhere,
& no penalties." Women, on
the other hand, have been told

that they may not have
sex outside of marriage, +
that only for procreation +
they are accountable (to
men - i.e. priests, doctors,
husbands, etc.) for their
sexuality and must pay (and
pay (and pay for any trans-
gressions (i.e. no abortion,
dangerous methods of birth
control, sanctions against
lesbianism, ^{especially} inclusion of
their children for women
who are sexual outside of
marriage, etc.)

Why can't there be a
middle ground - greater
freedom for women. More
responsibility for men -

Also, when we talk about freedom + liberation in a Christian context, what do you make of "All things are lawful to me, but all things edify not." I see public rec as one of the things Xian men, under conviction; that is, professed Xians within Xian communities, not being edified by. I see it as ~~immature~~, self-destructive, risky + illegal — therefore, potentially dangerous should the person be caught. Can I, then, as a pastor, counsel a young

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man into compulsive public
sex to go ahead & he himself,
accept himself as he is,
affirm himself as he is —
or do I let him become
one more statistic to be
used against the community,
one more eventual gay
prisoner, one more haunted
gay oppressed by the system
and warse off for having
been incarcerated for "sex
crimes," and his lover angry
because I am oppressing
the boy (NO-NAN) ~~for~~ ^{because}
I suggest that he behave
more responsibly.

I don't believe we will ever win this revolution until self-sacrifice; i.e. sacrificing some of our pleasure for the greater goals of more important liberties becomes a way of life for more of us. Must some men's insatiability be the standard by which we gain or lose our freedom? When we see a person who weighs 300+ lbs. eating compulsively, we acknowledge an illness. When we see an alcoholic unable to live without killing himself or herself w/ alcohol, we acknowledge an illness and recommend

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treatment. Yet, when we see
a brother compulsively taking
to sex and suggest that it,
too, is self-destructive in its
courting of danger constantly -
we become an oppressor by
acknowledging the illness.

This man has jeopardized
his job, alienated his friends,
and had to be told to clean
up his act because of his
conversation at the dinner-
table, all of which centered
on his sexual exploits - usually
told in front of women &
children most of whom are
either bored or offended by
the graphicness of his descriptions.

He has been our oppressor
for months. But if we

suggest he cool his ardor -
me become his appressor.

BULLSHIT!! I can't wait for
him to hit the witching age
of 30 + take stock of his life -
I hope he figures out then
that a large part of it has
been wasted on washroom
floors, kneeling on the tile
in adoration of his true god!

"The worst advice you can
give some people is 'BE YOURSELF.'"

Some people need to hear
something more important -
like "FIND YOURSELF."

I don't give a shit for
morality as such - but if
they were a woman everyone

unwilling recognize it as com-
pulsive, self-degrading, &
self-destructive behavior. Why
is it not so for a man? Be-
cause men may use sex to
kill themselves (viz; certain
practices like inserting foreign
objects in their anuses at
F&A parties - chains, etc.), to
degrade themselves (viz, copro-
philia), to kill others (viz, S/M
ritualized killings in Texas &
California where bodies were
dug up wholesale - some of them
13-14 year old boys) and to maim
their partners (viz one man in
town here, a pianist, whose S/M
oriented lover broke his hand
to make him demonstrate "obedience."

How far must "self-affirmation" go before someone within the community speaks out without being considered an "oppressor."

Many ^{gay} women want nothing to do with the gay movement and prefer to throw their labor to the feminist movement precisely because males require them to support activities which they - in good conscience - cannot support.

My Christian conscience curdles and my blood boils. I have to line it me. I am the mother of teen-age boys. I will not

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promote gay sex nor condone
public sex. One is ^{class} oppressive
of poor boys & the other a
damned nuisance - as well as
both being ammunition for
the oppressors. Men need to
clean up their act - and this
dyke - being Providence's
sacrificial lamb - i.e. "out" gay,
public personality, etc. - will not
stand up and be that, go hungry,
keeping an MCC going (foregoing
a lucrative 9-5 job, so that I
can get to daytime meetings,
contacts, appearances, etc.)
while the males who want the
freedom hide snugly behind
my skirts.

If I am going to take the risks
it will be on terms I can
stomach. I have to face me
in the mirror - and I draw
some limits as to what I
will support. My brothers
may do as they choose - but
so must I! I must love myself
first!

Homosexuality is not sick.
But some of its excesses are.
There is nothing sick about
loving another man - or desiring
one. ^(or more) There is something obsessive
about trying to take them ALL.

It's a good fight - it goes nowhere
and I am sick of it. I am
about to say "Fuck it" +

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5 Junction Street • Providence RI

leave town. let them keep
the church going themselves
and get someone else here
who believes as they do - I
cannot - I will not.

Marge